

Reverend Wood, who I knew as “my mother’s favorite cousin,” was one of seven children born to Frank Wood, a hardworking carpenter born into slavery, and Julia Wood, a dedicated and giving homemaker. They lived modestly on a family farm in Gloucester, Virginia. With nothing more than 25 cents and a commitment to serve, Reverend Wood entered adulthood at the age of 17. It did not take him long to begin his spiritual journey. He preached his first sermon as a senior in high school and shortly thereafter, became licensed by the church to preach in 1937. By the Grace of God, Dr. Wood was ordained as a Baptist minister only 3 years later.

Reverend Wood devoted most of his life to serving the community around him. An inspiring leader, he was pivotal in community service and played a key role in the 1960’s Civil Rights Movement in Baltimore, marching alongside his noteworthy former classmate and lifelong friend, Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr.

Reverend Wood and I share the same undergraduate alma mater, Morgan State University. By the end of his academic journey, Reverend Wood had obtained two bachelor’s degrees, a master’s degree in divinity, and was bestowed the high honor of receiving a “Distinguished Alumni Award” from Crozer Theological Seminary. He was the last surviving member of his class at Crozer Theological Seminary—where he met Dr. King—to begin what was to be a personal connection to both Dr. King and his legacy.

Reverend Wood carried what he learned from his academic pursuits and his peers into a career of visionary leadership and public service. From launching innovative techniques like opening solar-heated and ADA accessible church facilities, to developing the Providence Adult Day Care Center, no stone could be left unturned. He spread his love around the world and traveled to countries like England, Scotland, Russia, and Ireland to attend religious conferences. He made room to dedicate time to developing food programs, an AIDS ministry, prison outreach, and a committee for the homeless. He maintained memberships to different organizations, boards, and agencies such as the Baltimore Urban League, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the NAACP, and many more.

Reverend Wood’s wife of 69 years, the former Bessie Pendleton, died in 2017. He leaves to mourn his passing a brother, Dr. Garnett Wood; daughter, Jeanetta James; son, Marcus G. Wood; and grandchildren Kevin Brown, Darrell Brown-Bey, Monica G. Wood and Melissa G. Wood Bartholomew; as well as two great grandchildren and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Madam Speaker, in closing, Reverend Wood disavowed any trappings or pretensions and lived his faith in God. He did not suffer fools lightly and was one of a kind. He was, as they say, “the Real McCoy.” Reverend Doctor Marcus Garvey Wood left a memory with every person he interacted with, including myself. May his soul forever rest in peace.

MRS. JOSEFA FLORES 14-YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Josefa “Josie” Flores who is celebrating 14 years of service to the people of Texas Congressional District 12 on June 22, 2021.

Josie was born a first generation American in Grand Prairie, Texas. She has a servant’s heart and a strong commitment to her faith and family. She is never flustered and has been a beacon of hope in my office and my district for the last 14 years.

At 17, Josie joined the United States Army. Her 11 years of military service included a tour of duty in Bosnia, which she describes as one of her fondest memories. Upon returning to her husband, Jose, and firstborn son, Dee, Josie continued serving members of the armed forces in the fleet and family support center. Shortly after her second son, Leo, was born, Josie came to my office as a bilingual caseworker where she has been assisting constituents ever since.

Josie is not just good at her job; she is the best at her job. People from all over the world contact my office in hopes of having Josie pick up their case because they know that if there is a way to do it, Josie will get the job done. Josie often says her job is to help people and helping people is what she loves to do. No matter the stresses involved, she does all in her power to help every individual or family that reaches out. Her passion for others has carried her on to be a successful caseworker with a wealth of knowledge that few, if any, can match. In addition to helping constituents, Josie is a resource for others in the congressional casework community. She mentors’ caseworkers from all over the nation, sharing her experience and passion. The respect she has earned is a direct reflection of the work and dedication she has demonstrated to my office for the last 14 years, and during her entire 25 years of public service.

Josie will always provide an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on. She is a sounding board for my staff and a lighthouse for my constituents. I have been beyond blessed to work with this incredible woman during my time in Congress, and I am forever grateful for her service to our nation. May her light never extinguish.

On behalf of Texas’ 12th Congressional District, I offer my congratulations and best wishes on this special occasion.

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, as one of the original sponsors of Juneteenth legislation in the House, I am proud to stand with my colleagues in voting to make Juneteenth a national holiday.

Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom, of our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Of emancipation instead of dehumanization. Of a message that made its way from Washington to Texas, freeing women and men upon its sight.

It is our history, a reminder of deeds darker than death or night, and a debt unpaid that must still be made right.

On this Juneteenth, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the long walk to freedom, that took Union soldiers from sea to shining sea. Though we’ve travelled a long way, that walk continues today.

And while I am overjoyed to send this legislation to the President’s desk and make it the law of the land, the work continues.

When Congress made MLK Day a federal holiday in the 1980s, it didn’t end the economic injustice that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought against his entire life.

In fact, the gap between rich and poor has only widened since then.

So as we celebrate this victory for our history, we must remember that while Juneteenth marked a victory over slavery, it was only the start of our fight for voting rights and equal justice under the law.

That fight, that long march to justice and equality and equity will not be over until we have fully protected the right to vote for all Americans, guaranteed equal justice under law, and achieved equitable treatment that repays the debts of past wrongs.

Madam Speaker, thank you for joining me in celebrating Juneteenth, thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it a federal holiday . . . and never giving up the faith.

God bless.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER OF JEFF VANDELEEST

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of retiring President and CEO of Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Jeff VandeLeest.

During his 25 years at Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Jeff VandeLeest served as Executive Vice President, Senior Vice President, and finally President and CEO of the organization. Mr. VandeLeest’s dedication and commitment to Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin and the people it serves is truly remarkable.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. VandeLeest’s leadership and knowledge lead to the expansion and long-term success of the organization. Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin is a non-profit, human services agency that offers more than 35 programs to people within Northeast Wisconsin during challenging periods in their lives. In 2019 alone, under the leadership of Mr. VandeLeest, Family Services was able to assist over 18,000 children, families, and individuals through some of life’s most challenging transitions.

For 25 years, Mr. VandeLeest has upheld the mission of Family Services; to protect, heal, and care. Throughout his 25 years with Family Services, the organization has grown exponentially. Mr. VandeLeest has been an

advocate for a wide range of services, from training individuals to handle the most traumatic of cases, to educating communities about prevention. Mr. VandeLeest's expertise and knowledge in the services provided by Family Services will surely be missed by his peers and the entire Green Bay community.

Prior to Jeff's career at Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin he spent nearly 20 years delivering and managing juvenile justice services. Jeff has dedicated his entire career to giving back to those in our community who are most in need.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Jeff VandeLeest's 25-year career with Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin and wish him and his wife, Mary, all the best in retirement. His service and commitment to Northeast Wisconsin is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

CONGRATULATING THE BARBERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES ON THEIR FIRST BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Barbers Hill High School Eagles Baseball team for winning the 2021 Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) 5A High School Baseball State Championship. The Eagles Baseball team joins the Lady Eagles Softball team in clinching their first State Championship in school history. Barbers Hill is the first 5A High School, and only the seventh overall, in Texas history to win both State titles in the same season.

The Eagles finished the 2020–2021 season, with a record of 35 wins and eight losses. In the playoffs, Barbers Hill faced Manvel, Foster, Santa Fe, Lake Creek, Friendswood, and Amarillo before facing Hallsville for the State Championship. On June 12, 2021, the Eagles beat the Hallsville Bobcats by a score of two to one winning their first state title.

Raithen Malone, a senior pitcher, was named the State Tournament Most Valuable Player. Six Eagles were selected by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association to play on the Conference 5A All-Tournament Team: Raithen Malone, Brodey Williams, Simon Larranaga, Braden Jacobs, Jace Martinez, and Carson Garrett.

I would like to personally recognize each individual that contributed to this team's winning season. Players: Luke Sims, Carson Garrett, Trevor Bates, Cameron Cauley, Jace Martinez, Raithen Malone, Braden Jacobs, Will Buntin, Brent Holdren, Colin Schmadl, McKade Massengale, Kyle Isaacks, Kasyn Franco, Ernest Sanders, Josh Campbell, Brodey Williams, Logan Knichel, Hunter Mercer, Blaine Huntley, Colt Erickson, Alden Brookshire, Maddox Malone, Carson Dunham, Simon Larranaga, and Kaden Garcia. Head Coach: David Denny. Assistant Coaches: Darren Seymour, Chris Cauley, Josh Presnall, and Noel Garcia. Athletic Trainers: Gina Pace, Adam Carroll, and Ha Nguyen. Manager: Brennan McDonald. Statistician: Maddi Clary. Superintendent: Dr. Greg Poole. Athletic Director: Tom Westerberg. Principal: Rick Kana.

I wish each of these young men continued success in the classroom and athletics. Go Eagles.

HONORING CATHY LEWIS FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS ON HEARSAY

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cathy Lewis upon the culmination of her time as host of WHRO's HearSay.

Twenty-five years ago, Cathy became the founding host of HearSay, WRHO's flagship public affairs program. During her time with HearSay, Cathy has connected listeners with a variety of guests, from political candidates, to business owners, and civics leaders, including President Barack Obama. Cathy has used her exceptional ability to lead civil discussion to educate audiences about governance and inform them about important issues in their communities. Her work has made Cathy a prominent voice in Coastal Virginia, and she has routinely made lists of the most influential individuals in the region.

I am grateful for Cathy's service and for the outstanding contributions that she has made to our community and beyond. Again, it is an honor to congratulate Cathy for her 25 years with HearSay, and I wish her the best as she moves on to the next chapter of her career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, I was unable to vote due to a medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call Vote 159, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass Certain Bills; Yea on Roll Call Vote 160, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act; Yea on Roll Call Vote 161, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3325, To award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021; and Yea on Roll Call Vote 162, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, The LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act.

IN HONOR OF ANNA THOMAS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anna Thomas as the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. Anna has worked in the Manchester Health Department since 1994 and currently serves as its Director.

During her time at the Health Department, Anna has been a model public servant working on behalf of the residents of New Hampshire's largest city. Public health knows no boundaries, and Anna has worked hard to build partnerships with a diverse group of stakeholders to address the needs of her city. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, Anna has served her community as the co-leader of the Manchester Emergency Operations Center, which coordinates municipal first responder agencies and resources. Equipped with a background in emergency response and health promotion, Anna took swift action when the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the health and well-being of Manchester and its surrounding communities. Alongside the dedicated public servants at the Manchester Health Department, which is only one of two standalone health departments in our state, Anna and her many partners have done a remarkable job managing the most severe public health crisis of our time. Now, as the Granite State continues its crucial vaccination effort, Anna has been an outspoken advocate for equity and expanding access to reach our most vulnerable residents.

In addition to aiding public health efforts, Anna is also a proud veteran and active community member involved in a host of local organizations, including Veterans Count, Granite United Way, Mary Gale Foundation, and Bean Foundation. Anna works tirelessly to realize a brighter, healthier future for the greater Manchester area.

During an unprecedented year of loss, Anna has embodied smart, compassionate leadership benefitting our entire community. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I congratulate Anna Thomas for being named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and thank her again for her lifetime of public service.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATES FROM MICHIGAN

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the Class of 2021 graduates from the United States Military Academy at West Point and twenty-seven exemplary graduates from the state of Michigan.

From Plebes to Firsties, and now Second Lieutenants in the United States Army, the Class of 2021 has come through one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives to join "The Long Gray Line." I commend the graduates for their dedication to support and defend the American Constitution and uphold the ethical standards of the United States Army and United States of America. While their career of professional excellence and service to our Nation has just begun, I am confident these new officers embody the values of "Duty, Honor, Country" and will be steadfast leaders Until the Battle Is Won.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Olivia Bennett, Tully